... ADAM
I NEED TO TALK
YEAH
SAME HERE
IN YOUR BLOOD,
THERE WAS BARELY A TRACE OF HIS
...!
WHEN I FOUND LOU BACK AT THAT CHURCH HE SUFFERED FROM CRITICAL BLOOD LOSS BUT...
... YOU DID TESTS?
WELL, YES
I'M SURE YOU CAN FORGIVE ME

ALL THIS TIME
I'D THOUGHT YOU WERE SUSTAINING YOURSELF ON LOU'S BLOOD
.....
GUESS I WAS WRONG
SINCE THAT DAY WHEN LOU AND I FIRST MET?
ARE YOU SAYING YOU HAVEN'T HAD A PROPER BLOOD-FEEDING
WAIT A MINUTE ...
WHAT?
ADAM...
FROM THE BEGINNING, I'VE NEVER INTENDED TO FEED ON ANYONE ELSE'S BLOOD BUT YOURS
THAT'S RIGHT
.....
BUT THEN VERLOREN CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD
I HAD A BIT LONGER TO WAIT UNTIL I COULD HAVE YOUR BLOOD

FOOLISH...
NO WONDER SEIN WAS DEFEATED SO EASILY
I'M THE ONE WHO GOT THE TWO OF YOU INTO DANGER
BUT
I WILL NEVER LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN
WELL! I SHOULD HOPE NOT!
ADAM...
?

I'M SERIOUS
……!!
SFX: JOLT
THAT IS WHY
I NEED YOUR BLOOD...
B-BUT, WHY DO YOU NOT FEED ON LOU'S BLOOD?
YOU SEE...

THAT BOY IS TOO KIND
HE WOULD GLADLY GIVE HIS BLOOD TO ME... TOO MUCH, IN FACT, AND IT WOULD KILL HIM
IT ALMOST HAP- PENED
SOME- ONE LIKE HIM
I COULD NEVER ENTER INTO A "CONTRACT" WITH
"CONTRACT" ...
IN THAT CHURCH
LOU TOLD YOU ABOUT THAT?!

THE ONLY ONE WITH WHOM I WILL SHARE A CONTRACT...
IS YOU
ADAM
SFX: CREAK
IT IS YOUR BLOOD
THAT I NEED...

SEIN ONLY WANTS MY BLOOD
FOR THE STRENGTH TO FIGHT VERLOREN
IT'S A LIE
... IS IT ALL RIGHT?

MY BLOOD... IS JUST BEING USED...
BUT I DON'T CARE RIGHT NOW
IF I CAN BE OF HELP TO YOU
THEN THAT IS ENOUGH FOR ME
YES...

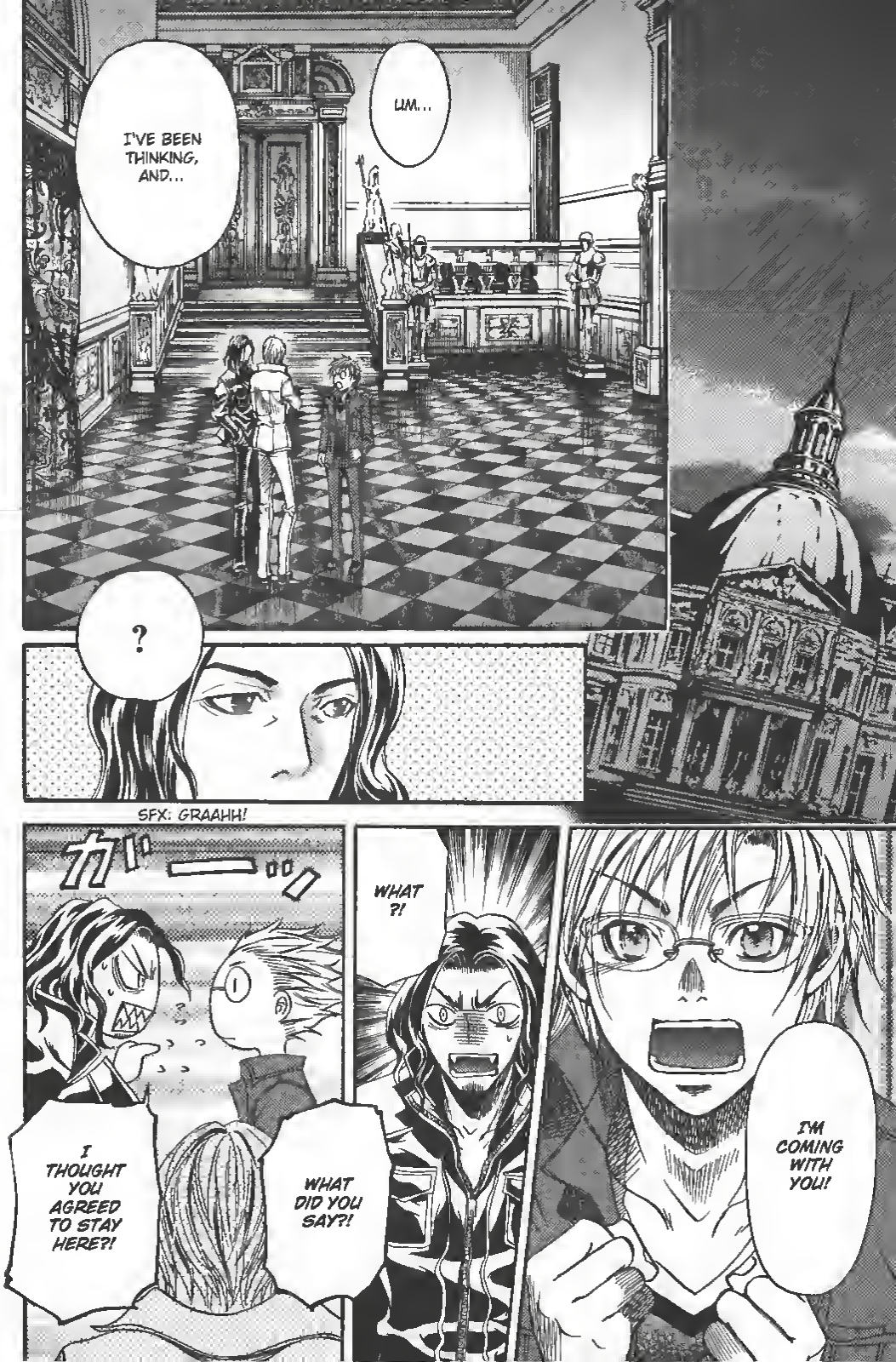
"WHY
DO YOU ALWAYS MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS BEFORE TAKING MY BLOOD?"
S...
S...

I REMEMBER ASKING HIM LONG AGO
IT'S SO STRANGE
YOU THINK SO?
YEAH, IT'S REALLY WEIRD!
CUZ YOU'RE A VAMPIRE AND ALL!
WHAT WAS SEIN'S ANSWER? I CAN'T RECALL
OR
PERHAPS HE NEVER ANSWERED ME

IS FEELING OVER-WHELMING PITY FOR THIS MAN
BUT WHAT I DO RECALL...

...AND SWEARING TO GRANT HIS EVERY WISH
U...HH!
>HAH<
>HAH<
...UHH ...
U... HHH...

THE ONLY THING I CAN DO...
...IS REMAIN SAFE, SO MR. SEIN HAS SOMEONE TO RETURN TO?
.....
BUT
WILL MR. SEIN REALLY MAKE IT BACK?
I COULDN'T STAND IT...!
I'VE CHANGED MY MIND...
IF SOMETHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO MR. SEIN AGAIN -
UGH!
I DON'T WANT TO JUST SIT AROUND AND WORRY!

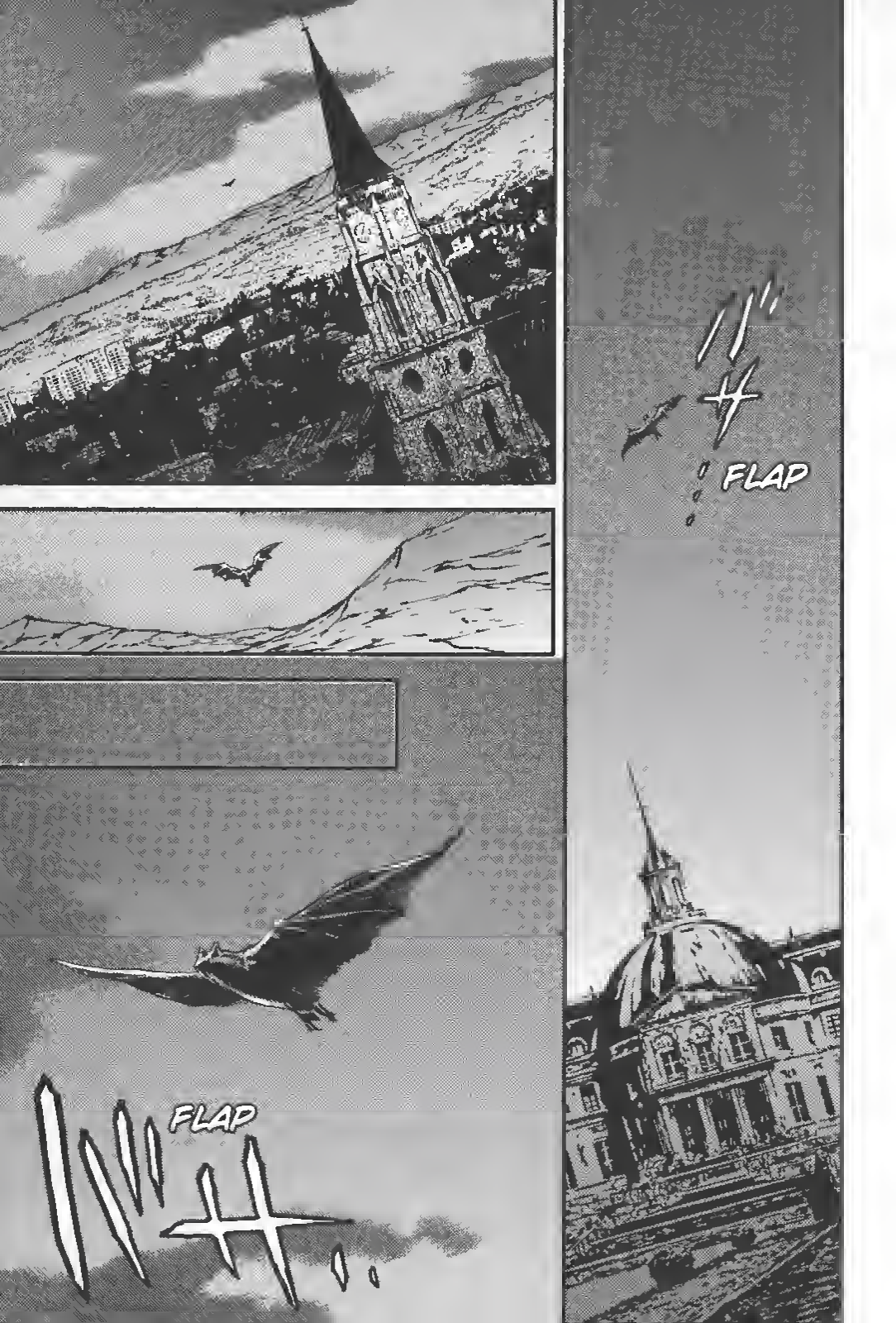

I'VE BEEN THINKING, AND...
UM...
?
SFX: GRAAHH!
I THOUGHT YOU AGREED TO STAY HERE?!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
WHAT ?!
I'M COMING WITH YOU!

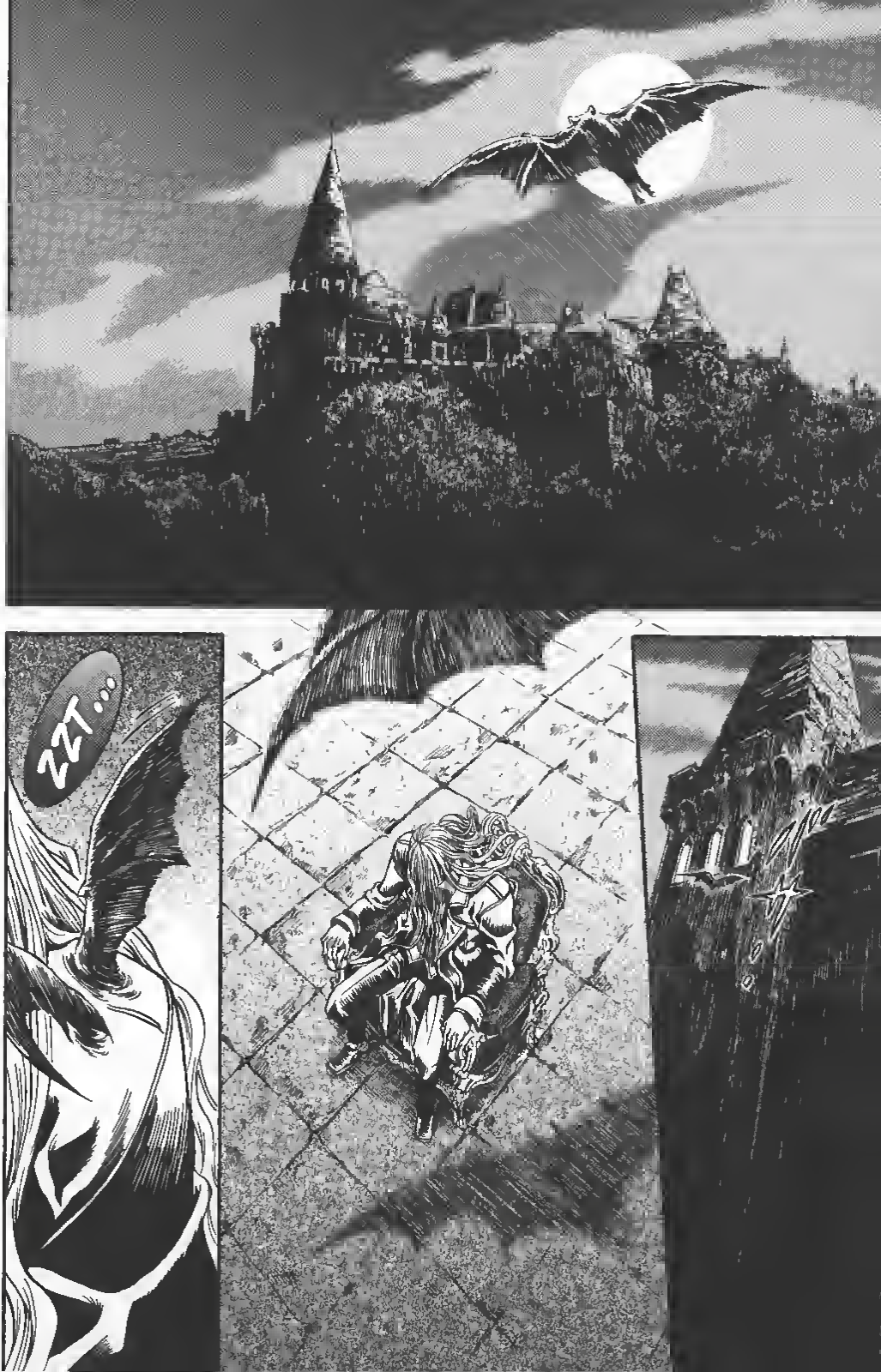
THERE'S NO POINT IN "KEEPING A PLACE FOR YOU TO RETURN TO" ANYWAY!
BUT, MR. SEIN...!
IF YOU DON'T COME BACK
WHAT STRANGE LOGIC...
THAT'S WHY I'VE DECIDED TO ALWAYS STAY BY YOUR SIDE!
HO-HO!
INTER-ESTING, LOU!
STRANGE OR NOT
LOGIC IS STILL LOGIC!
I DON'T CARE!
COMING WITH YOU!
BUT I'M
CALL ME WHAT YOU WANT!
WHAT ARE YOU, A LITTLE KID...?

IF YOU DON'T AGREE TO TAKE HIM
HE'LL PROBABLY TAG ALONG AFTER YOU
AND THAT PUTS HIM EVEN MORE AT RISK
YOU'VE GOT YOUR HANDS FULL WITH THIS ONE, SEIN
THIS IS SERIOUS! IT'S NOT ABOUT FUN AND GAMES!
COME ON, ADAM - SAY SOME-THING, TOO!
OKAY...
IF LOU IS GOING TO GO
THEN I MIGHT AS WELL, TOO
EH?!
にこにこ
BUT
I'M SURE WE CAN HELP IN SOME WAY!
UGH... NOT YOU, TOO...
WHAT A PAIR OF JOKERS...

I GIVE UP
OKAY!
FINE!
GOT THAT?!
ABSOLUTELY!!
... YES?!
BUT PROMISE ME THIS ONE THING
START-ING RIGHT NOW
YOU MUST OBEY EVERYTHING I SAY!
ABSOLUTELY!!!

ALL RIGHT!
EVEN HE'S NO MATCH FOR YOU...
I DO!
URGH... YOU REALLY GET IT?
...HE'S THE SAME OLD SEIN AGAIN
SIGH
はぁ～...
.....
.....


FLAP
FLAP


ZZT...

... SO -
YOU WILL FINALLY RELEASE ME FROM THE CURSE THAT BINDS ME TO THIS WORLD...
SEIN

BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
ZSH!

YOU GUYS
WAIT HERE
HUH ...?
BUT...!
YOU PROMISED!
BESIDES, IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO ME...
MY PARTNER IN "CONTRACT" WILL BE ABLE TO SENSE IT
I SUP-POSE
BUT...
WHAT ABOUT ME...?
LOU
LOOK UP THERE

KEEP AN EYE ON THAT LIGHT
FROM DOWN HERE
DON'T MOVE FROM THIS SPOT
UNLESS TROUBLE IS SENSED
IT'S LIKE TALKING TO A BRICK WALL...
HE'S GOT AN ANSWER FOR EVERY-THING!
SFX: GRRR
SFX: WHAAAT?
IF WE WAIT 'TIL TROUBLE IS SENSED, IT'LL BE TOO LATE!
BUT!

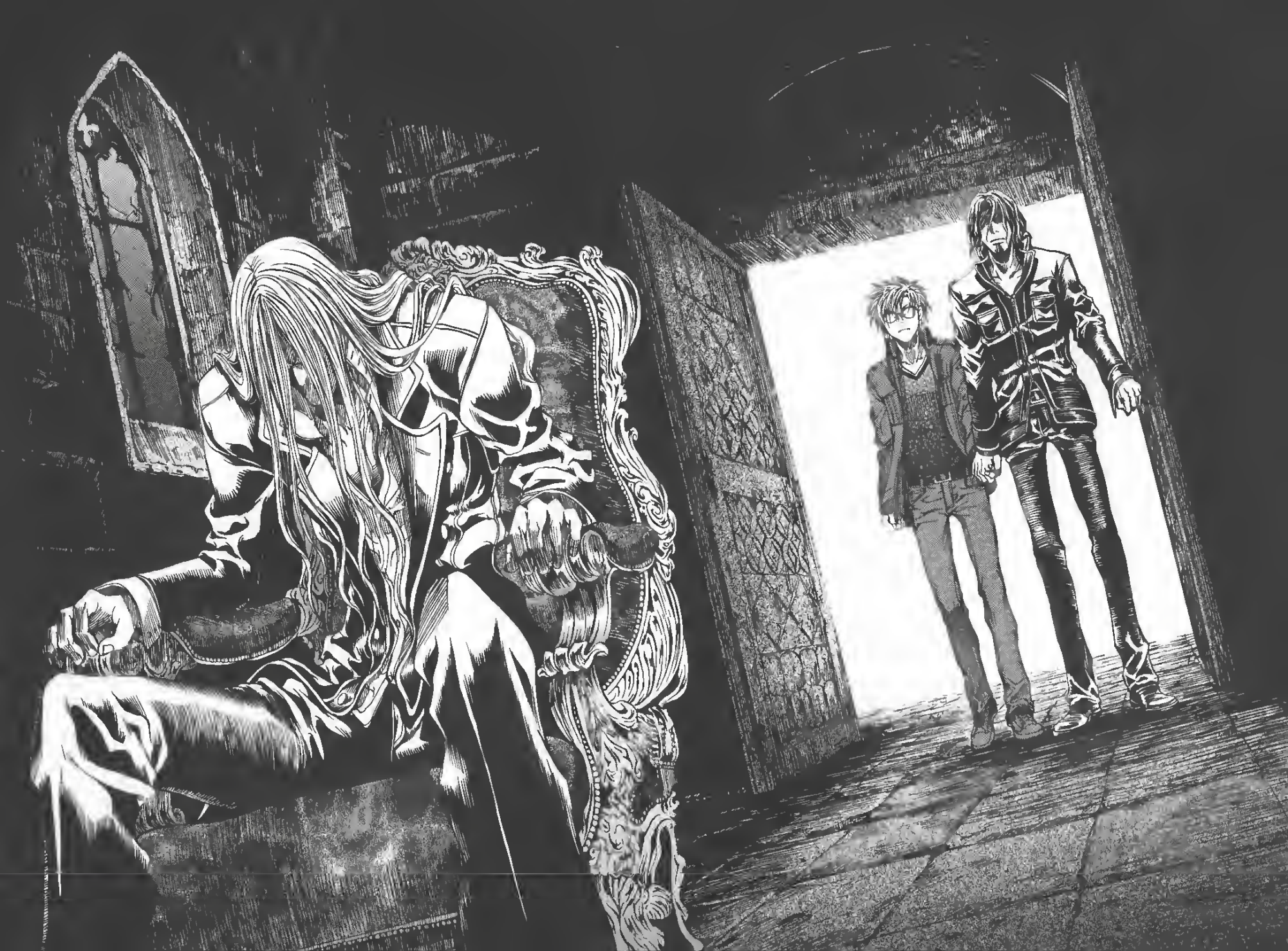
FINE, THEN
FOLLOW ME
ADAM, YOU STAY HERE
... ALL RIGHT
LET'S GO
LOU

.....
WHAT A PAIR...

LOU...
STARTING FROM NOW...
I'M GOING TO TREAT YOU AS IF YOU ARE A PART OF ME
UNTIL I GIVE THE WORD
YOU ARE NOT TO LET GO OF MY HAND, NO MATTER WHAT
...YES!

I WILL PROTECT LOU...
I SWEAR IT...!

GRIP
CREAK



HMPH...
HOW VERY ENTERTAINING...
...!
GRIP

...
ギシ!
LOU IS ONLY HERE TO SEE YOU OFF
PAY NO HEED TO HIM
I SEE...
BUT

SWISH
HE ANNOYS ME
SFX: WHOOSH

HIS ARM...!
GRAB
OH...
UGH ...
SHOVE
GRIP
!!
LOU, DON'T LET GO YET...!

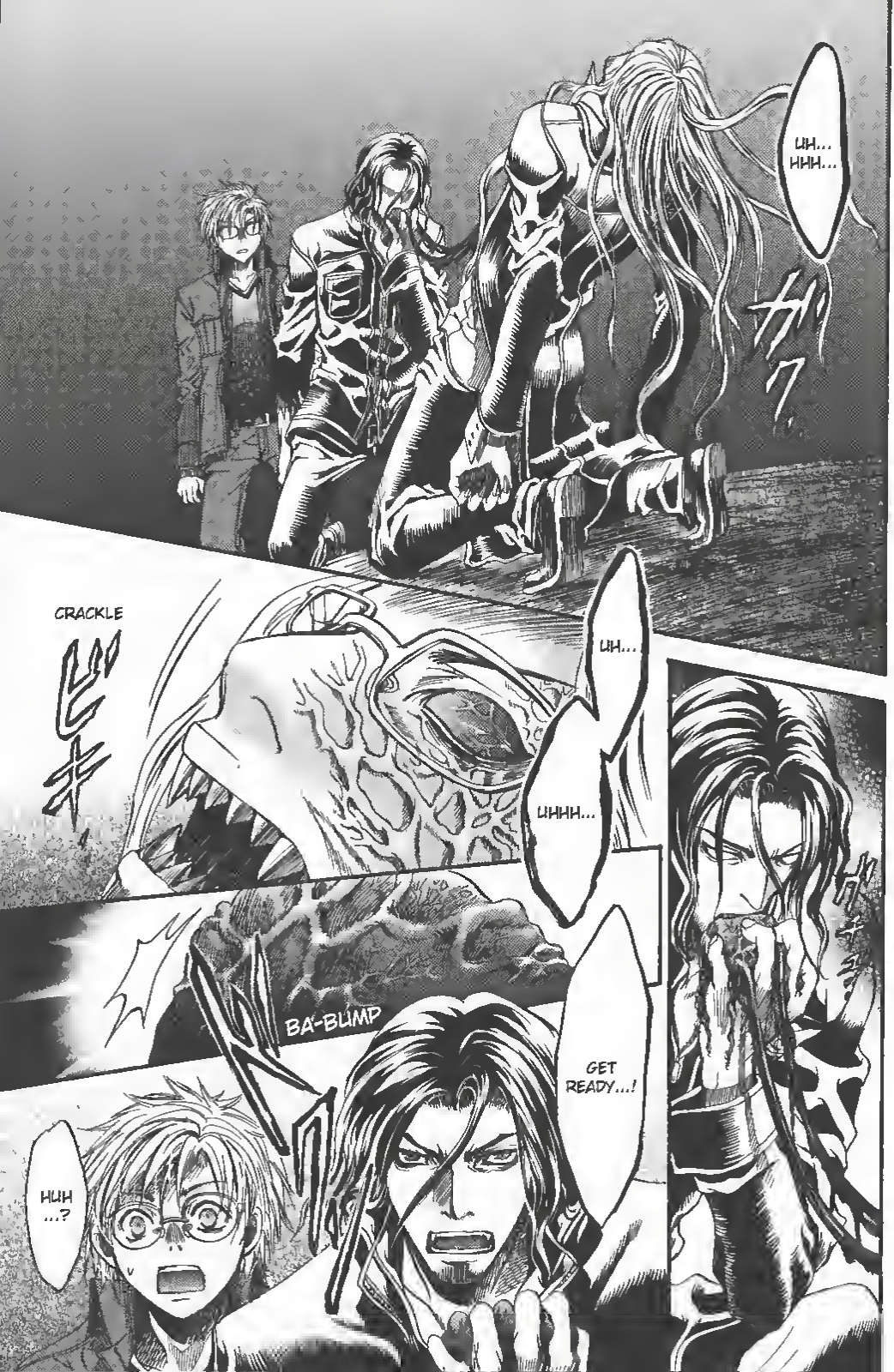
HO-HO
SO IT'S ALREADY FUSED BACK
NOT LACKING FOR POWER, I SEE
VERLOREN ...
!...
THERE IS NO NEED TO PROBVOKE ME ANYMORE - I'VE MADE MY CHOICE
I SEE...

THEN YOU'LL REALLY...?
YES, BUT...!
I'VE GOT ONE THING TO SAY
I
WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU

I KNOW YOU WILL NOT
I KNOW
YES...
BUT I AM FINE WITH THAT...
SFX: CLENCH
グッ グッ...
UR
UGGH
ア

ARGH!

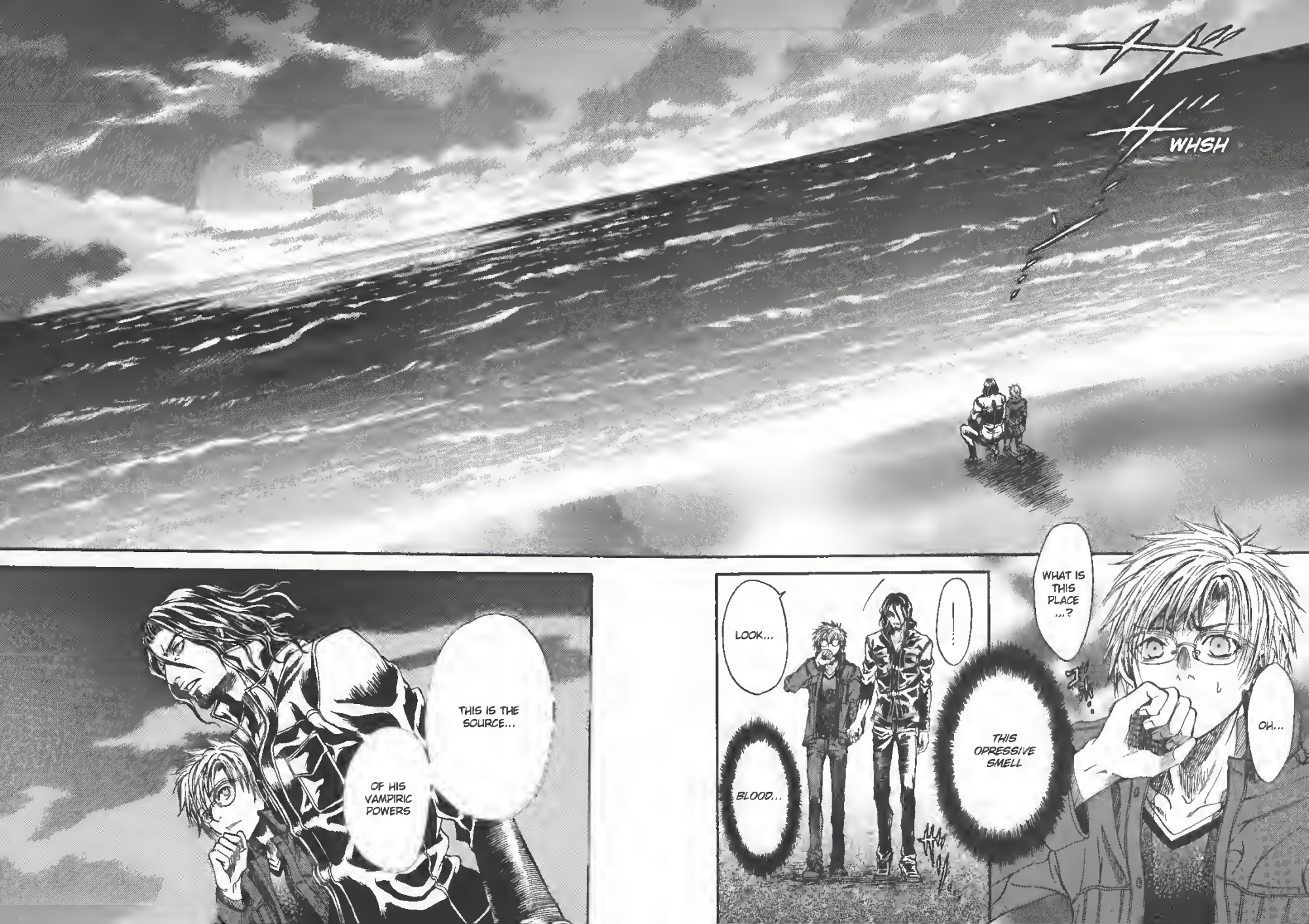
BA-BUMP
.....
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
MR. SEIN...?!
CHOMP
UH... UHH
SFX: JERK
UHH


UH... HHH...
CRACKLE
UH...
UHHH...
BA-BUMP
GET READY...!
HUH ...?

AAHHH!!
ARRRRGGG!!

LOU!
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!
DO NOT BE AFRAID!
"VERLOREDN CAN INCREASE HIS POWER BY UTILIZING THE NEGATIVE ENERGY GENERATED FROM THE FEAR HE INVOKES - ...!
...!
SFX: GLARE

I WON'T FEAR...!
SFX GRIP
MR. SEIN...!
↕SFX: WHSSH
NN...
WHSSH
.....
...LOU
WHAT'S THIS SOUND... AND... ODOR...?
LOU!


WHSH
WHAT IS THIS PLACE ...?
OH...
LOOK...
!
BLOOD...
THIS OPRESSIVE SMELL
THIS IS THE SOURCE...
OF HIS VAMPIRIC POWERS

DO YOU HAVE A SIMILAR PLACE INSIDE YOU, MR SEIN...?
OH...
THEN
.....
IT SEEMS WE CANNOT DESTROY VERLOREN COMPLETEY...
... UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS "SEA OF BLOOD"

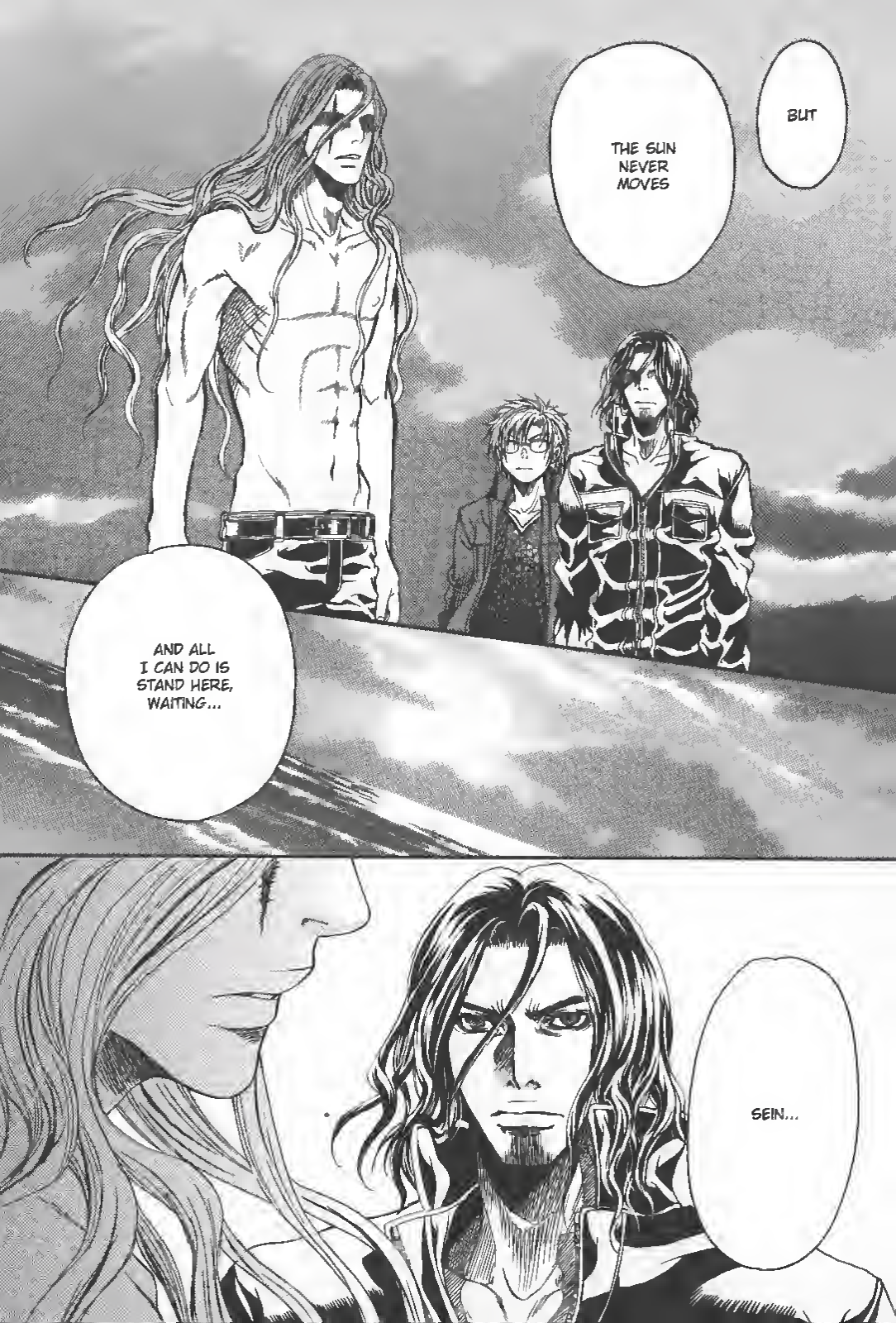
A "SEA OF BLOOD"...
HOW TERRIFYING...
AND THERE IS A SIMILAR PLACE WITHIN MR. SEIN...
JUMP
CLAK

OH...
MY...
SPLASH
LOU...!
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN
WE ARE ENTERING THE DEPTHS OF THE SOURCE
GRIP

HALT
YES...!
SFX: GULP
...!?
A MAN...
IS THAT...

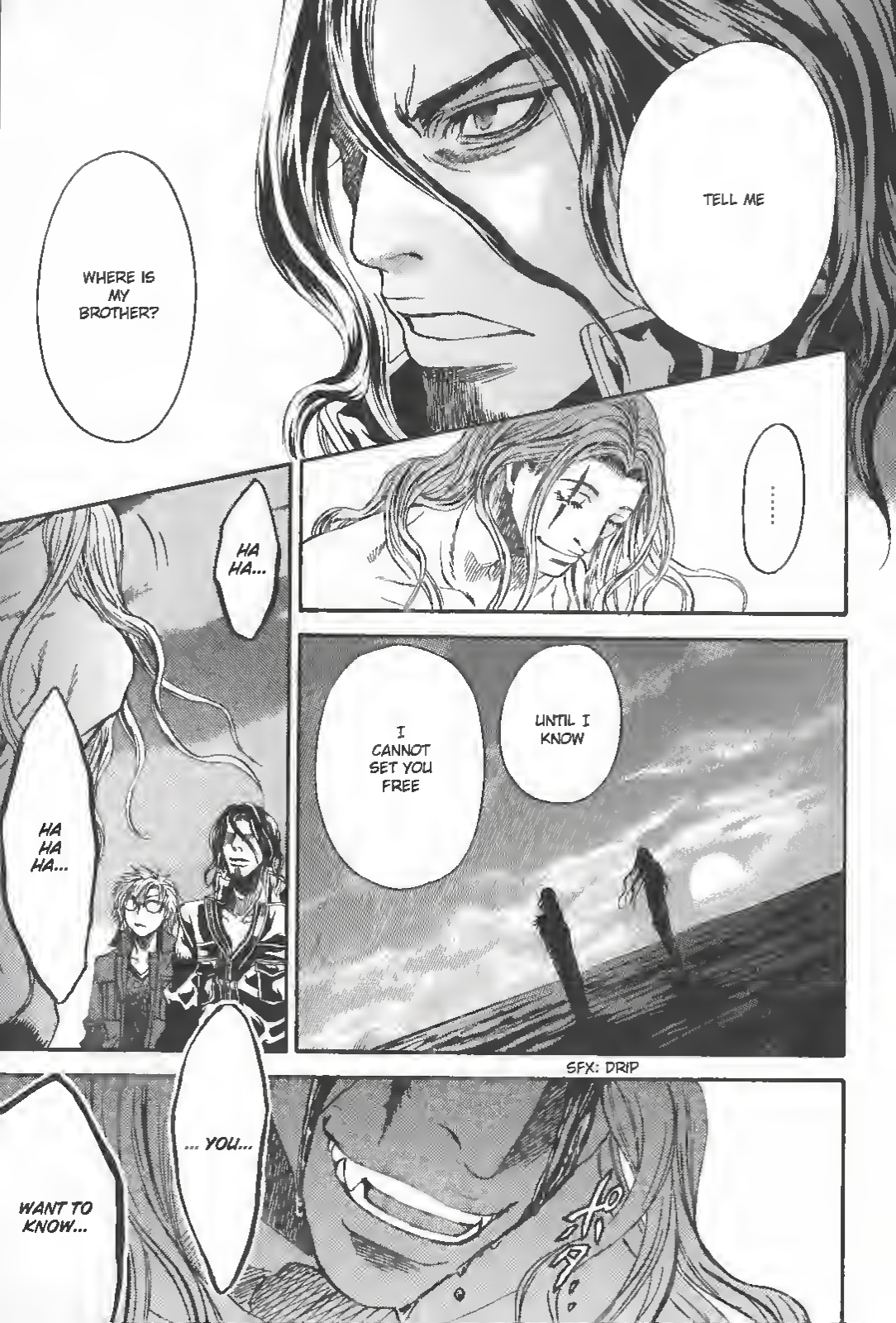
VERLOREN
SO, THIS IS HIM...!

ALWAYS HAVE THE SAME DREAM...
I
!!!
AND ON THIS SMALL, EMPTY ISLAND
PILES OF CORPSES WASHED UP ON THE SHORE BY AN OCEAN OF BLOOD
I STAND ALONE, UNABLE TO GO ANYWHERE
I WATCH THE SUNSET ON THE HORIZON
I WAIT FOR IT TO SINK, SO THAT NIGHT WILL COME
WHICH THEN TURNS INTO DAY, WHEN I MIGHT SPOT A SHIP TO RESCUE ME...


BUT
THE SUN NEVER MOVES
AND ALL I CAN DO IS STAND HERE, WAITING...
SEIN...

YOU'VE FINALLY COME
...YES

BUT
I CANNOT COME WITH YOU
SFX. GRIP
MR. SEIN ...!
... I SEE
YOU REALLY HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL...
WHETHER YOU'RE COWARDLY OR JUST TERRIBLY KIND, I DON'T REALLY KNOW.
BUT IT ONLY MAKES ME THAT MUCH MORE FOND OF YOU
... VERLOREN...


TELL ME
WHERE IS MY BROTHER?
.....
HA HA...
HA HA HA...
I CANNOT SET YOU FREE
UNTIL I KNOW
SFX: DRIP
... YOU...
WANT TO KNOW...

I'LL NEVER TELL YOU!!!
VWOOSH
FLASH
GH...!

UHH ...!
TWINGE
!!
SEIN?!
SFX: FWSH
VERLOREN!!

I WON'T LET YOU HARM LOU...!
FLAP
LOU!
YOU MUST TRUST ME
MR. SEIN...
NN...

I PROMISE I'LL RETURN
SFX: SHOVE
!!
LIFT

MR. SEIN..!!!
FWOOOOSH
THUNK
!!
SO, HE'S IN HERE...!
BUT...
CREAK
WHAT IS THIS...?!
SNAP
TWANG
SNAP

SEIN!
MR. ADAM!

DAMMIT ...!
WHAT IS THIS STUFF?
SFX: SNAP
I SEE...
!
SO, SEIN IS CONNECTED TO VERLOREN'S "INNER WORLD"
VIA THESE TENDRILS
YES...
GH...
BUT VERLOREN'S PHYSICAL BODY IS CLEARLY WEAK...
WHAT ...?!
NO...! IF YOU CUT THESE AWAY...
... MR. SEIN WON'T BE ABLE TO COME BACK...!!

GAAHHH
AHHH
CRACKLE
AH...
CRACKLE
MR. SEIN!!
AT THIS RATE, HIS BODY WILL BE DESTROYED BEFORE HIS CONSCIOUS-NESS CAN RETURN
THIS IS NOT GOOD...! IT'S AFFECTING HIM PHYSICALLY
LOU
GET BACK
STAND
!?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?!
I'M GOING TO STOP SEIN'S RAMPAGE
SLIP

I'M AFRAID MY BODY IS AT ITS LIMIT, TOO
BUT I SWEAR TO PROTECT YOURS
YOU MUST NOW RETURN
SEIN...!!
ROAAAR

WHERE ...
WHAP
WHERE IS HE...?!
UGH ...!
SPLASH
...!!

BROTHER!
WHISH
GAH!
WHAM

YOU CANNOT OVERCOME MY POWER
SPLOSH
NO...

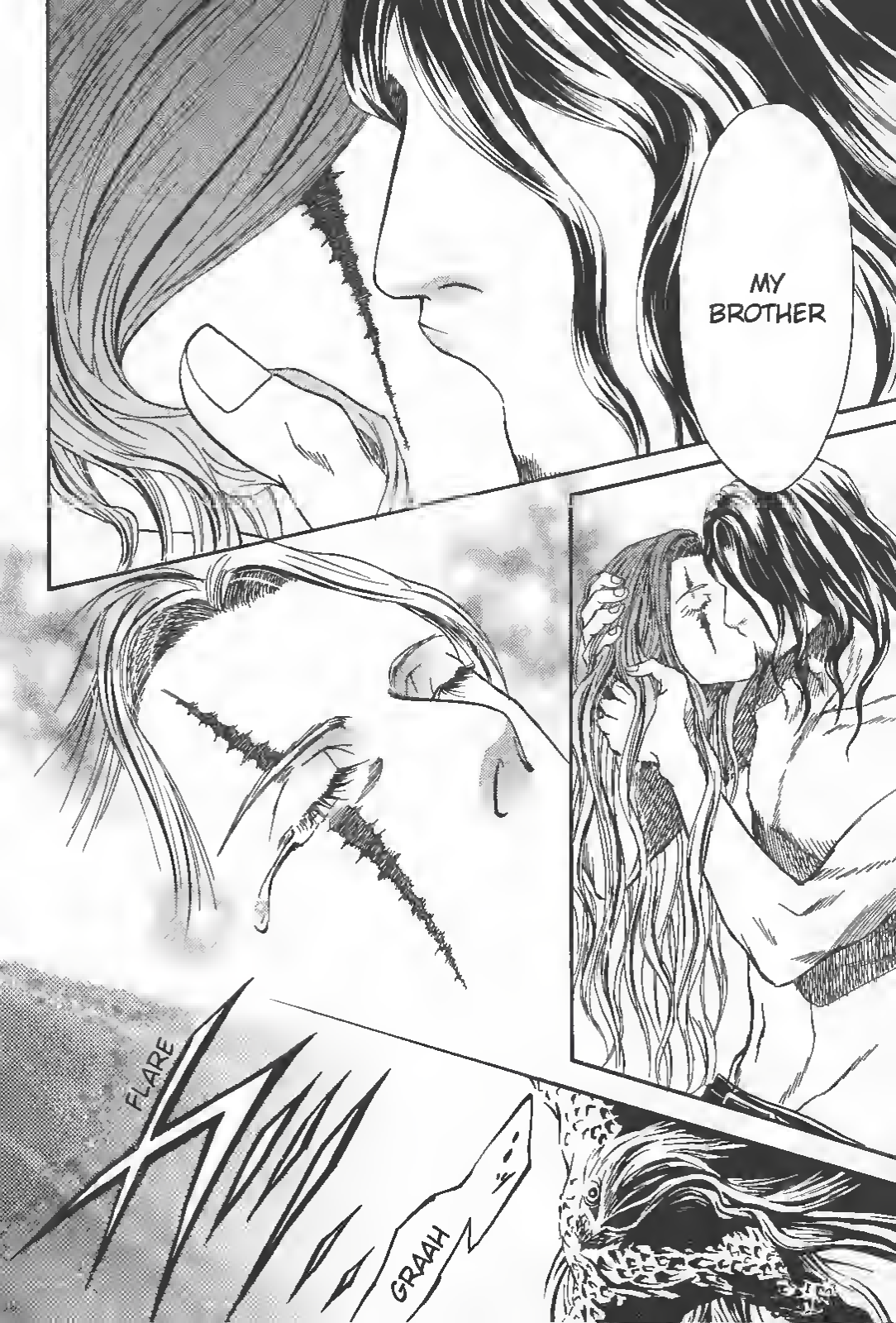
CAST ASIDE YOUR WEAK AND FRAGILE FORM
AH ...
AND ASSUME THE LIKENESS OF THE ONE IN YOUR HANDS...
AHH ...
SFX: SWAY
SFX: RUSTLE
AH
...!!
NO...
THIS CAN'T BE...!
HA HA HA HA!!

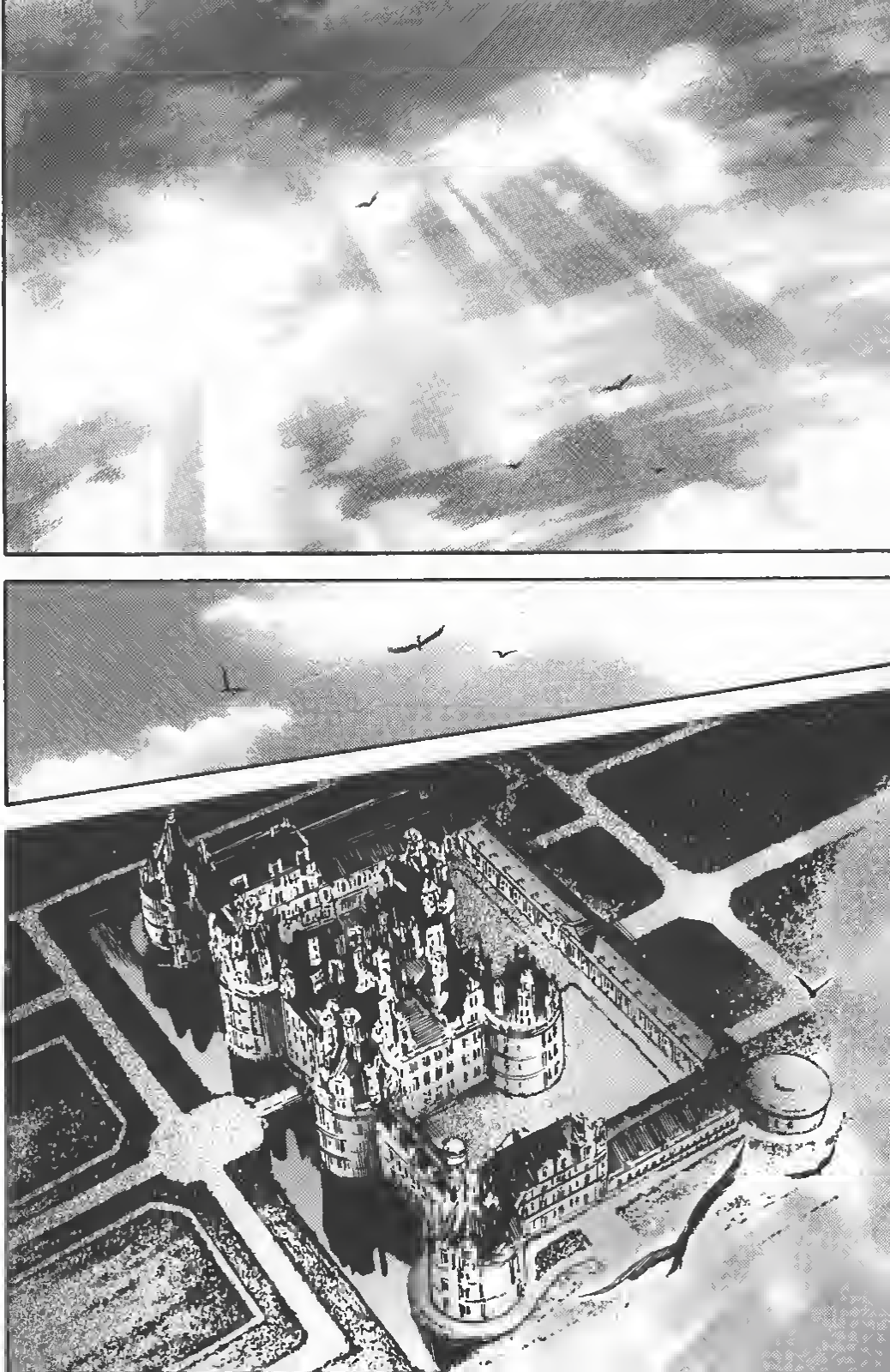
REMEM-
BER...
HA
HA
HA
HA
!!
TRY TO
REMEMBER...!
THE
PORTRAIT
LOU
PAINTED
OF ME
MY TRUE
FORM...

HMM...
THERE'S A CERTAIN PAINTING I'D LIKE TO DO IN THE NEAR FUTURE
BUT THAT'S ALL I'M GOING TO SAY FOR NOW...
HMM... IN OTHER WORDS
IF I AGREE TO ACT AS YOUR MODEL, I'LL EVENTUALLY FIND OUT WHAT IT IS YOU WANT TO PAINT
REMEMBER...!
I REMEMBER...
THAT'S RIGHT...
RUSTLE

I CANNOT LOSE MYSELF HERE...!
!?
VERLOREN ...
I DON'T INTEND TO FORGIVE YOU

BUT
I DO WANT TO FREE YOU FROM THIS TERRIBLE SOLITUDE
REST...
... IN PEACE...


MY BROTHER
FLARE
GRAAH



OH...
THAT'S WHAT I CALL MR. SEIN'S PARIS STUDIO
- "THE ATELIER"?
OH, RIGHT - THAT PLACE
WHAT ABOUT IT?
UM, WELL
I WANT TO GO BACK THERE. CAN YOU TELL ME WHICH BUS TO TAKE?
.....

THWAP
HEY, HEY... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ARE YOU STILL HALF-ASLEEP OR SOMETHING?
HUH??
OH
HUH?
WH-WHAT? TOLD ME WHAT?
COME TO THINK OF IT, WE HAVEN'T TOLD YOU YET
WE
ARE IN ROMANIA
SFX: FLAP

HUH ?
ROMANI-...
Romania Liberă
WHAT??
HUHHHHH ??!!
Paris
THIS GENERAL AREA
STAY HERE A BIT LONGER
MY OLDER BROTHER SAID HE'LL BE RETURNING SOON
BE-SIDES
YOU MEAN LEO?
DOES HE HAVE BUSINESS HERE?
YES
WHAT'S DONE IS DONE. DON'T FRET ABOUT IT
NOW, NOW
NO WAY...
BUT THAT'S ABDUC-TION!
IGNORE
BAM

HE IS GOING TO BIND A CONTRACT
BETWEEN YOU AND LOU
!
BUT I'VE TOLD YOU, IT'S YOUR BLOOD THAT I ...
NO
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT
FOR THE TIME BEING, MY BODY NO LONGER HAS ENOUGH POWER TO KEEP YOU UNDER CONTROL
THAT'S WHY LOU WILL TAKE OVER THAT DUTY FOR ME
!

AFTER ALL, YOU MIGHT RUN INTO ANOTHER THREAT IN THE FUTURE
.....
YES
YOU SEE, THE LEME-GETON
IS DIVIDED INTO SECTIONS, DEALING WITH SEVERAL CATEGORIES. IN OTHER WORDS...
IT'S LIKE A REFERENCE BOOK OF CURSES AND SPELLS
WHAT?
IS THAT REALLY POSSIBLE ?!
EVEN IF IT WAS VERLOREN WHO HAD BEEN WRITING IN THE LEMEGETON
THERE ARE MOST CERTAINLY SEVERAL COPIES OF THE ORIGINAL TEXT HE BASED IT ON STILL FLOATING AROUND
AND THERE MAY BE SOMEONE WHO TRIES TO USE ONE OF THEM
BEST TO BE PREPARED
YES, WELL...
YOU MAY BE RIGHT, BUT...

BAM
!
YEAAAH!!
I'M BAAACK -!
HERE - I BROUGHT YOU PRESENTS!
.....
ぽん

GAPE...
ぽかーん…
……
……
I WISH YOU'D READ THE VIBE IN THE ROOM...
…HUH?
SO I SNAPPED IT UP ON THE SPOT! ♡
ちら、
HA HA !
I FOUND THIS REALLY GREAT WINERY
THIS MAN - IS HE REALLY …
TH-…
OOPS - WERE YOU DISCUSSING SOMETHING SERIOUS?
SORRY -
HAVE YOU ALREADY HEARD EVERYTHING FROM ADAM?
LEO!
HUH?
OH, YEAH…
LOUIE?!
OH!
YOU MUST BE LITTLE LOUIE!!

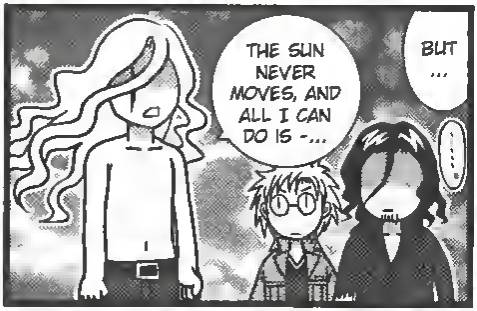
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
BUT FIRST
I HAVE TO THANK YOU
!?
SFX: YANK
FOR GRANTING "HIM"
HIS WISH
WHISPER
YOU MAY NOT UNDER-STAND, BUT
HA...
I DON'T SEE WHY I DESERVE YOUR THANKS FOR -
BUT ...
?
?

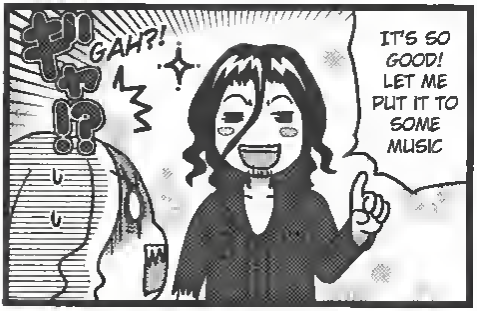
HIS HAPPI-NESS
IS ALSO MY HAPPINESS
SO, SEIN
LET ME SAY IT ON HIS BEHALF
THANK YOU
LOU
.....

WE'VE GOT A "CONTRACT" TO BIND
HURRY AND GET READY
HUH ...?
ARE WE REALLY DOING THAT?!
A-ARE YOU SURE?!
DON'T MAKE ME REPEAT MYSELF
LET'S GET IT OVER WITH...

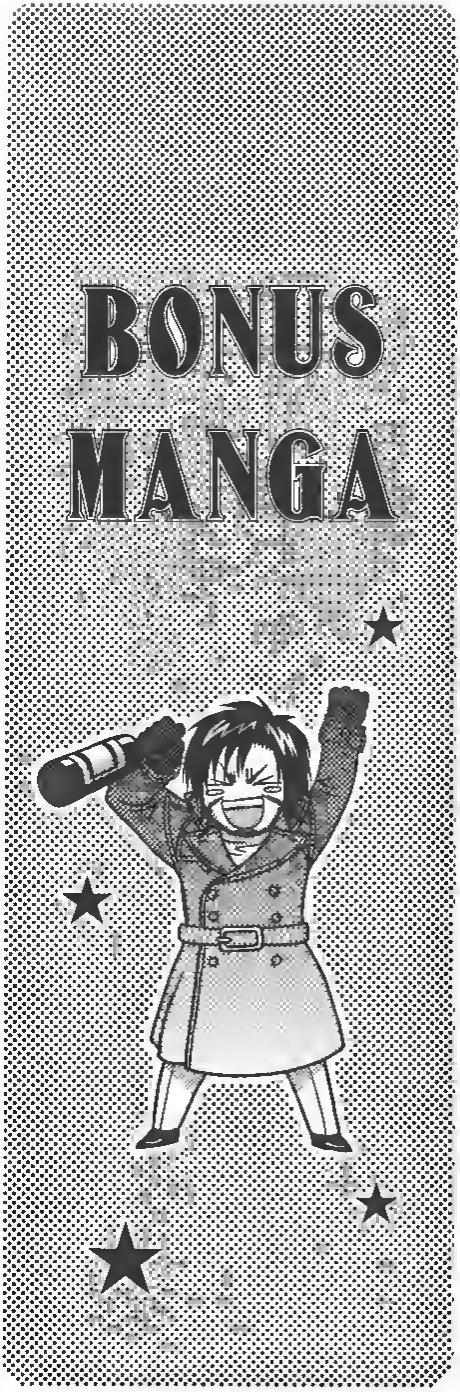
AND HURRY BACK TO THE ATELIER
YES!
Y-...
END

"VERLOREN THE POET"





W-WOW.. THIS IS AN ATTACK I WOULDN'T WISH ON ANYONE - EVEN MR. VERLOREN!
♪STAND ALONE UNABLE TO GO ANYWHERE♪
PLEAAASE - STOP - IT'S SO EMBARRASSING-!



HELLO. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TAKING THIS BOOK IN HAND!!!!!

IT'S THE SECOND VOLUME I'VE ALWAYS WANTED! YAAY, YAAY!!

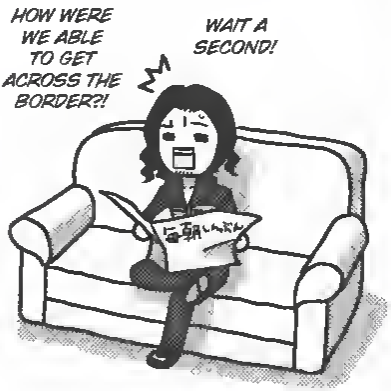
... AS FOR THE NEXT VOLUME... ... ...

... ... WELL... I GUESS I'LL TRY TO THINK POSITIVE. FOR NOW.

WELL, THERE YOU HAVE IT.
I HOPE TO HAVE YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN THE FUTURE...!

HIROKI KUSUMOTO

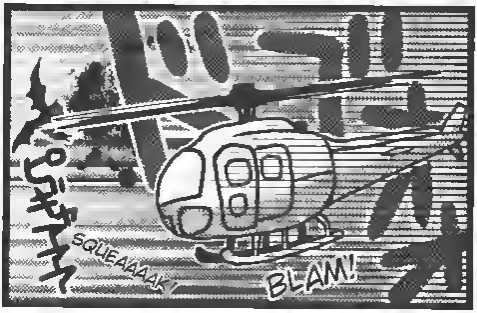
http://www5h.biglobe.ne.jp/~doggydog/

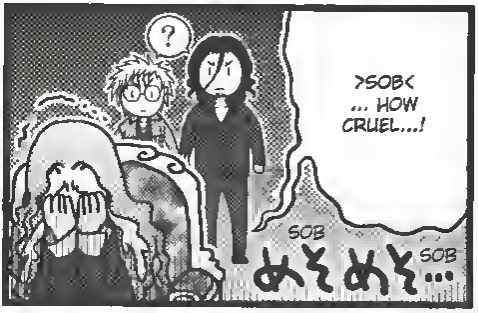


... JUST LET IT GO

SPECIAL THANKS!! KUNOTU SAMA
YATSUKI SAMA

"VERLOR-BAT'S ORDEAL"





吸血鬼の肖像 II

＊初出一覧＊

吸血鬼の肖像 II …… 描き下ろし
おまけまんが＆あとがき …… 描き下ろし

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アクアコミックス

ヴァンパイア
吸血鬼の肖像 II

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